

Ely Neighbourhood Panel

Wednesday 18th July 2012 Council Chamber
East Cambridgeshire District Council, Ely

PRESENT

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cllr Will Burton | City of Ely Council |
| Cllr Philip Eden | City of Ely Council |
| Cllr Elisabeth Every | City of Ely Council |
| Cllr Shirley Overall | City of Ely Council |
| Cllr Tony Winchester | City of Ely Council |
| Cllr Lindsey Harris | East Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Cllr Richard Hobbs | East Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Cllr Sue Austen | Cambridgeshire County Council |

OFFICERS

| | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| John Hill | Chief Executive | East Cambs. District Council |
| Inspector Paul Ormerod | | Cambs. Constabulary |
| Terry Jordan | Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer | Cambs County Council |
| Allison Conder | Principal Community and Leisure Services Officer | East Cambs. District Council |
| James Nairn | Community Development & Engagement Officer | East Cambs. District Council |
| Adrian Scaites-Stokes | Democratic Services Officer | East Cambs. District Council |

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor Tom Hunt | East Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Councillor Brian Ashton | City of Ely Council |
| Mr Victor Lucas | Cambridgeshire Police Authority |
| 25 members of the public | |

ENP12/1 Welcome

Cllr Philip Eden, the Panel Vice Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ENP12/2 Introductions and Apologies

The Panel Members and supporting officers introduced themselves to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors John Yates, Jeremy Friend-Smith and Sheila Friend-Smith.

ENP12/3 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Councillor Will Burton proposed that Councillor Philip Eden be elected as the Panel Chairman for the forthcoming year and this was seconded by Councillor Shirley Overall. There being no other nominations, Councillor Eden was duly elected Panel Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Richard Hobbs proposed that Councillor Elisabeth Every be elected as the Panel Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year and this was seconded by Councillor Tony Winchester. There being no other nominations, Councillor Every was duly elected Panel Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

ENP12/4 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items

Councillor Philip Eden highlighted the items currently out for consultation: (a) draft East Cambridgeshire Local Plan; (b) Crime and Disorder issues; (c) Broadband access in Cambridgeshire; (d) Single Equality Scheme; and (e) proposed changes to Waste Collection Services. Details on how residents could respond to all of these consultations were in the pack provided at the meeting. There was one additional matter out for consultation and that related to a potential cinema in Ely. Comments for this could be made online to East Cambridgeshire District Council.

ENP12/5 Update on East Cambs District Council Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by East Cambs District Council. The Chairman asked for any comments.

| Issue No and Description | Further Comments |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Magistrates' Court | A meeting had been scheduled for mid-September so that a representative from the Ministry of Justice can attend. An architectural assessment has been carried out on the building and this would be considered at that meeting. This issue would be reported back to the next Panel. |

ENP12/6 Update on County Council Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the County Council. The Chairman asked for any comments.

| Issue No and Description | Further Comments |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Lisle Lane | The responsibility for the street lighting belongs to the developer and they had been informed. An answer would be obtained on this matter from the developer. |
| County Council Initiatives | Trading Standards - to give a warning about comen. Social Care – information service roadshows. Reading challenge – to encourage children to read over the summer. |

ENP12/7 Update on Sanctuary Housing Actions Since Last Meeting

There were no actions for Sanctuary raised at the last Panel. Sanctuary have moved their offices with most staff being relocated to Lancaster Way, though there is now a front-of-office service available in the Council offices at The Grange in Nutholt Lane, Ely.

ENP12/8 Update on City of Ely Council Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the City of Ely Council.

| Issue No and Description | Further Comments |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Maltings Cottage | Discussions with the District Council were ongoing. |
| Parking Issues | Discussions with the District Council and County Council were ongoing. |
| Code of Conduct | This issue was under consideration by the City Council. |
| CCTV | A full audit had been done by independent consultants and it was being reviewed. |
| Street Furniture | Use of tables/chairs in the streets was being reviewed with licensing likely jointly with CCC |
| Christmas Lights | Plans were in hand. |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Ely In Bloom | Not entering for Anglia in Bloom again this year but local initiatives and competitions with judging on 7th August. |
| Youth Forum | This was being re-organised. |
| City Council | Two new committees had been formed – Localism Advisory Committee and the City Centre Forum. |
| Jubilee Event | Had been a great success. |

ENP12/9 Update on Police Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the Police. Priorities from the last Panel meeting were; 1) alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour around the Cathedral and 2) inappropriate parking.

| Issue No and Description | Further Comments |
|--|--|
| Alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour around the Cathedral | <p>Numerous patrols had been carried out, up to 3 per day. The toilets have been checked regularly for discarded needles. The majority of patrols did not identify any offences or any anti-social behaviour. 3 arrests had been made and 1 dispersal notice given.</p> <p>It was recommended that this no longer be a specific local priority, but that patrols continue as business as usual. Incidents should still be reported. Meetings would be held with residents, Cathedral staff and the City and District Councils.</p> |
| Inappropriate Parking | <p>Forehill - There were issues with people parking in Forehill. Every vehicle had been checked and all were found to display Blue Badges. A separate log was being kept to record these incidents.</p> <p>Thistle Corner – no offences had been found.</p> <p>It was recommended that this be kept as a priority and to continue with the multi-agency approach.</p> |
| Other matters | <p>There was an ongoing issue over shoplifting. Additional patrols would undertaken, particularly on market days. Offenders were engaged, enforcement would be robust and bail conditions also enforced.</p> <p>Crime figures showed a decrease from last year.</p> |

There were problems using the 101 telephone number when contacting the police, due to the long time it was taking to get an answer. Generally the calls were answered initially quickly, the problem seemed to arise when putting calls through to the control room. Additional staff had been recruited to help the situation.

A member of the public raised the issue of parking in Dovehouse Close. This issue had been brought up a year ago and nothing had been done. A consultation had taken place and detailed comments had been submitted. This had been brought up time and time again so it was about time something was done, so the agencies needed to get together and sort it out.

A member of the public mentioned parking in Lisle Lane, where a number of incidents had occurred including lorries parking outside Pecks. It was revealed that a lot of the cars in the street belonged to staff of Travis Perkins.

Another member of the public was concerned about the sale of drugs in High Barns and suggested this as a possible priority.

ENP12/10 Shape Your Place

The Chairman permitted an additional item that was not on the agenda. This related to Shape Your Place, a web based initiative between the District Council, County Council, Fire Service and Police that was launched in June 2012.

The Panel heard that the ShapeYourPlace website was essentially a community website on which residents could raise and discuss issues of interest/concern in their local community. So far the Ely site had good engagement with community members. The public were encouraged to provide details on events or bring up issues. It was suggested that the main threads brought up on the website could be reported to the Neighbourhood Panels.

ENP12/11 Panel Prioritisation

The Panel agreed the Police priorities as follows:

- focussing on car parking issues, including Lisle Lane, Kings Avenue and Queen Adelaide.

Councillor Richard Hobbs stated that there had been a vast improvement with the issues around the Cathedral but was concerned that if this were no longer a priority the situation would deteriorate. Inspector Ormerod explained that patrols would continue as a matter of normal police business, and any incidents reported would be responded to as appropriate. As regards the response to incidents in this area, there were no additional benefits to this remaining a Panel priority.

Following a comment about drugs selling in High Barns, Inspector Ormerod revealed that the drugs work around the district was being reviewed and it would be difficult to report back to the Panel on that issue. There was no particular problem with High Barns, so it was not considered a high priority, but people were encouraged to still report incidents.

ENP12/12 Issues raised by Audience and Panel Members

| <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>ISSUE OF CONCERN</u> |
|---|--|
| Dovehouse Close and Potters Lane | Obstruction of the pavement for wheelchair and buggy users – Police requested public to keep reporting |
| Lisle Lane | Traffic and parking incidents since Sainsbury’s opened – Travis Perkins lorries and employees parking |
| New section of Kings Avenue | Used as a through road and cars parked on left make it dangerous and accident waiting to happen– can residents be asked to move cars. |
| Queen Adelaide | Speeding – needs a presence and Speed Watch involvement |
| Riverside | Significant concern about Canada geese. Health issue. Get a group together to look at. Ongoing problem. |
| High Barns | Overgrown hedge on High Barns Avenue overhung with brambles near school and footpath. Rubbish left for months. Dog fouling not cleared by owners, in cemetery and playing area. Mini motorcycle riding round. Litter on playing area although collected regularly by City Council. Need to report. New doors fitted by Sanctuary to properties but a fire risk. |
| Cam Drive | Hedges grown over more than half of path. Haven’t been cut for years. Mr Ashby 668168 |
| Footpath under railway | Improvement in access. |

ENP12/13 Presentation – Your Choice: Police and Crime Commissioners

Mr Victor Lucas, Vice Chairman of the Police Authority, gave a presentation and made the following comments:

- The position of Police and Crime Commissioner had been introduced by an Act of Parliament.
- This would make the Police more accountable to the public, via the Commissioner.
- The Commissioner would work with local authorities and the Safety Partnership to help cut crime.
- The Commissioner could give grants to organisations that supported safety priorities.
- The Commissioner would help produce the Police and Crime Plan, which would set out local objectives, and set the Police precept.
- The Commissioner would be directly elected by the public, with the first election held in November 2012, usually for a term of 4 years. Although this first term would only last until the next election in May 2016. This election was most important and it was vital that the public participate in it.
- The Police and Crime Panel, consisting of 11 elected members, would hold the Commissioner to account, had the power to veto proposed Police precepts, could request information or for public hearings to be held.
- The overall aims were to at least maintain Police performance, keep the public safe and improve public confidence in the Police.

In response to public questions, Mr Lucas stated that the candidates manifestos would be published on various websites, so people could find out about the candidates' qualities and proposals. Political parties would choose their candidates but the Government was encouraging independent people to stand. The media would play a big role in promoting the candidates and they might also hold meetings.

Councillor Will Burton asked about the voting procedures, as they appeared complicated. Chief Executive John Hill explained that people could vote for their first and second preferences. This was a supplemental voting system where the first candidate to achieve 50% +1 of the votes would be elected.

ENP12/14 Presentation – Maltings Cottage Update

Councillor Will Burton gave a presentation and made the following comments:

- The Heads of Terms for the cottage had been agreed between the City and District Councils.
- Legal processes now had to be gone through.
- The intention was to use the cottage for mixed purposes, such as retail, commerce and community use.
- The community would be kept informed on developments.
- It should take 12 months for approval of the actual specifications.

ENP12/15 Forward Agenda

The forward agenda was noted.

In response to a suggestion from a member of the public, the Chairman agreed that a presentation on the development of a food bank would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8:54pm.